

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include the labeling of Fig. 8 as "PRIOR ART."

Attachments: 1 Replacement Sheet
 1 Annotated Sheet showing changes

REMARKS

In this response, claims 1, 2 and 4 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Drawing Objection

Figure 8 has been objected to for not being designated as "Prior Art."

Applicants believe that the Office's objection has been addressed in the replacement sheet, and request that the objection to Figure 8 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

I. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Austin (GB 2 126 559).

Austin discloses a manipulator apparatus which simulates certain movements of the human body, such as shoulder, upper arm, forearm and wrist. In Austin, the rotating shaft 92 is always positioned at a right angle with respect to the rotating shaft 94. (See Fig. 6). On the contrary, claim 1 of the present application requires that "the axis of the second rotating shaft being inclined relative to the axis of the first rotating shaft." For example, as shown in an exemplary embodiment in FIG. 2, the axis L2 of the second rotating shaft is inclined relative to the axis L1 of the first rotating shaft at an angle of about 45 degrees. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

In addition, in Austin, the pivoting mechanism 26 is connected to the outer end of the arm section 14 by a fixed, i.e., non-rotatable, coupling element or shaft 32. (See II. 104-108, and Fig. 1 of Austin.) On the contrary, claim 1 of the present application requires that "the joint arms are connected to one another via a first rotating shaft at at least one location and via a second rotating shaft at at least one location." Thus, independent claim 1 is further allowable over Austin.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1; and thus, claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in connection with independent claim 1.

II. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Akeel (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,107).

Akeel discloses motorized rotary joints for robots which provide bearing support and speed reduction. In the Office Action (at page 4), the Examiner indicated that "Figure 8 in Akeel shows the motorized joint mechanism (136) positioned at a right angle with respect to the rotating shaft of the motorized joint mechanism (140)," however, "if the motorized joint mechanism (138) is rotated, then the axis of the motorized joint mechanism (136) will be inclined with respect to the motorized joint mechanism (140)." Applicants respectfully disagree. As seen in Figure 8 of Akeel, even if the motorized joint mechanism (138) rotates about its axis (which is parallel to the axis of the motorized joint mechanism (136)), the motorized joint mechanism (140) will stay in a plane that is perpendicular with the axis of the motorized joint mechanism (136). In other words, in Akeel, the rotating shaft of the motorized joint mechanism (136) is always positioned at a right angle with respect to the rotating shaft of the

motorized joint mechanism (140). On the contrary, claim 1 of the present application requires that “the axis of the second rotating shaft being inclined relative to the axis of the first rotating shaft.” Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from claim 1 directly or indirectly; and thus, claims 2 and 4 are patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in connection with independent claim 1.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 29, 2007

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Attachments: 2 Sheets of Drawings (1 Replacement Sheet and 1 Annotated Sheet)

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